

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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It's YOUR Newspaper

## Getting Help with Personal Statements

By ELIZEDA BELTRAN  
STAFF WRITER

Because there is a limit to what grades can reveal about a student, delivering a good impression via a personal statement is crucial to getting accepted to a university. Valley College students are being offered a variety of on-campus services to help them get that acceptance letter.

The Career/Transfer Center and the Writing Center are partnering up to bring five workshops to assist transferring students create strategies for writing, review guideline requirements, and start a draft of the essay from Oct. 30 through Nov. 20.

"We'll have a general overview ... and the idea is that by the end of the workshop [students will] have some part of the personal statement written, or [have] just brainstormed some of it," said Scott Weigand, director of the Writing Center.

Independently, the Writing Center has tutors who can review drafts of personal statements, and help with organization and grammar through individualized feedback.

Weigand underscores the importance of making sure that personal statements undergo multiple revisions, and that students see a different tutor when they come in for a second alteration in order to get feedback from different audiences.

He also warns against common errors propagated from the desire of the applicant to stand out.

"Students think that a personal statement needs to be creative, and for the most part it's true, but they should be careful with humor," Weigand warned. "It may be funny to you, but it begs the question, 'Who is your audience?' Students should write something that speaks to them and who they are."

The Career/Transfer Center is another resource prospective transfer students can look into for help with their essays.

"It's very important that you get the college admissions offi-

see 'Statement' page 2

## Open Discussion on Immigration

An immigration forum held at Valley College discussed the hot button topic from the perspective of immigrants.

By ASTRID SEIPELT  
STAFF WRITER

Changes to immigration law and encouraging more open discussion about immigration issues were key points at an Oct. 10 forum at Valley College.

The forum "Immigration Policy: The Global, the Local, the Legislative" was presented by Valley, the Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students (STARS) and the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute, and featured speakers who experienced immigrating to the United States firsthand. More than 100 people attended the event.

"9/11 has turned the immigration debate into a national security debate," said opening speaker Victor Narro. "Immigration should have a dialogue on the real issues, not on hate and stereotypes."

Narro, project director of the UCLA Downtown Labor Center, was born in Peru, but fled to America because his father faced political perse-

cution in their home country. Living in New York, he saw first hand how 9/11 affected the immigration issue. 1986 was the last time the United States reformed immigration and he said it's something that needs to be addressed.

"Twelve to 15 million people are here illegally who are completely integrated into society ... we need to come to a solution on what to do with them," Narro explained.

He also called for people in the local area to help bring about changes to immigration laws. "Communities need to come out of the shadows to make a change ... chasing lawsuits is not the key."

Kenadi Le, program coordinator and an attorney told attendees how she was inspired to work for the Labor Institute by the hardships of her parents.

"My parents were boat people who were refugees from the Vietnam War, and were working in horrible conditions in Los Angeles...I knew that if

see 'Immigration' page 2



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**MAKING A POINT** - Victor Narro, Project Director of the UCLA Downtown Labor Center, spoke to Valley College students and faculty in the Monarch Hall Fireside Room last week about the latest immigration issues.

## A Look at Campus Security

Despite a low crime rate, Valley College students report feeling unsafe on campus grounds, particularly at night time.

By ASTRID SEIPELT  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students report feeling unsafe on school grounds due to a lack of lighting and security presence at night, even though the campus has a low crime rate.

From January to August 2007, there have been 27 Part One crimes, as classified by the FBI, such as burglary, grand theft auto and arson, compared to a total of 37 of the same crimes in 2006.

Valley Deputy Sheriff Tom Lynch said that his officers are doing a more than adequate job on campus.

"With the number of officers we have to the number of students here, our crime rate is excellent," said Lynch. "We don't have a lot of violent crime, for example...but there is always room for improvement."

The campus sheriffs' office has two deputies, 13 security officers, and eight cadets. Deputies wear khaki uniforms and are the same as police officers. Deputies are also armed with standard issue guns. Security officers wear white shirts and are issued the same weapon as deputies, but can only detain suspects, and not arrest them. Cadets are unarmed, wear blue shirts, issue citations. They

serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Sheriff's department, according to Lynch.

With a student body of almost 17,000 students Valley has a Sheriff employee for every 739 students. According to security companies around the San Fernando Valley, a campus of Valley's size needs many more officers.

"I would advise one officer for every 50 to 100 students," said Steve Leon, operations manager of Security Specialists in Van Nuys.

Naylon Farlough of World Private Security, Inc. agrees, say-

see 'Security' page 2

## Construction Continues On

By SHEILA KOOCHAK  
STAFF WRITER

Construction and renovations such as new projectors and marker boards in the Foreign Language building and campus-wide landscaping began at Valley College. The projects are funded by Proposition A/AA, which voters approved in 2001 and 2003. It awarded a total of \$2.2 billion to the nine Los Angeles community colleges.

"This building will improve our instructional program tremendously," said Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeier.

"It will be an upgrade, especially for the nursing

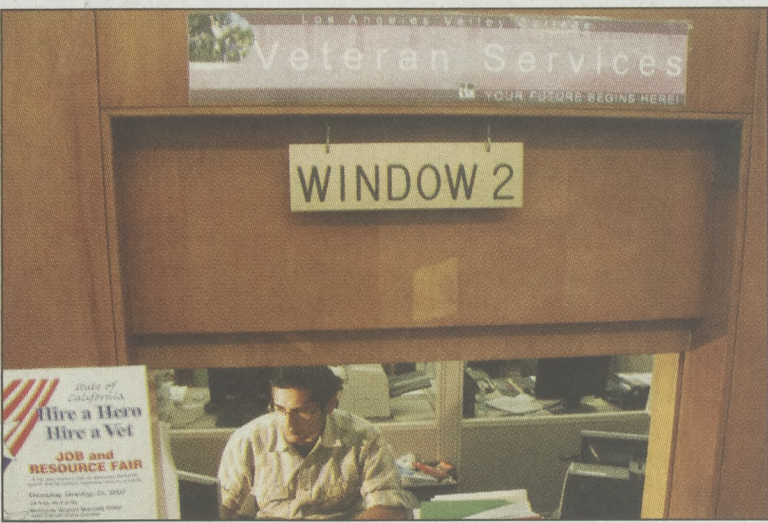
department."

The 98,000-square-foot Allied Health and Sciences center will contain state-of-the-art teaching labs and classrooms. It will incorporate energy-saving and sustainable components for the various educational programs in the health and science departments.

"[It] is going to be LEED-certified, energy efficient and have a better system for air and heating control; designed to conserve energy," said Senior Project Director Rinado Veseliza of URS Cooperation.

Not only will there be classrooms and laboratories inside the building, but there will also be outdoor

see 'Construction' page 2



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**HERE TO HELP** Valley College student Jose Palacios, 24, a U. S. Navy veteran, works in the campus Veteran Services department. Palacios says students come to his window seeking help getting G. I. Bill benefits.

## Valley College Provides Veterans with Support System

By ELIZEDA BELTRAN  
STAFF WRITER

After serving their country, veterans looking to further their education find assistance at Valley College through its Veterans Program. It serves as a support system and a place where soldiers who have returned from war can openly express their opinions.

"Our goal is to make sure veterans who are eligible receive their educational GI benefits," said Syed

Khaled Hussain, Veterans & International Student Retention Coordinator at Valley. "We try to guide veterans through the college system. We take them to financial aid, Trio, EOPS, get book grants, and tuition fee waivers."

The Veterans Program, which has 502 active members, helps guide eligible veterans who fall under Chapter 30, 31, 35, and 10606. Former members of the armed forces must meet with designated VA counselors

see 'Veterans' page 2



LORRIE MCCLANAHAN / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

**A DAY AT THE BEACH** - It's hard to top a stroll along the beach in Venice, California. The Valley Stars' Sarah Bishop and friend, spent a day exploring one of southern California's favorite places. Take a Look at Valley Life: Travel pg. 4

**TODAY**

**OPINION PG. 3**  
**CHEATER!**  
TECHNOLOGY...  
A TOOL FOR GOOD,  
AS WELL AS BAD

**VALLEY LIFE PG. 4**  
**COLBERT**  
A REVIEW ABOUT  
HIS "GOSPEL"

**SPORTS PG. 5**  
**WATER POLO**  
THE LADIES SAIL AWAY  
IN SANTA MONICA

**GALLERY PG. 6**  
**DANCE, DANCE**  
MUSIC, DANCE AND  
MORE ARTS COURSES  
AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS



## 'Statement' continued from page 1

cers who visit us to let them read it. And if you're not available to make an appointment we have the emails and telephone numbers and you can contact them and email your personal statements, and they're happy to read them," said Synthia Saltoun, director of the Career/Transfer Center. "Our staff of interns and myself would be happy to read them also."

In addition to the personal statement, students applying to private colleges will have to gather letters of recommendation as a part of the application process.

"If they're asking for them then they're very important, what they're looking for is academic source, a professor that has taught in one of your major courses," said Saltoun.

"Letters need to work together with your personal statement, they need to paint the same picture," said English Instructor Ellen Davis. She also recommends that students give their instructors at least two weeks to

write the letter.

She advised students to get letters right after the end of the course. Provide a stamped envelope addressed to the university, and be sure to thank the instructor.

**"Letters [of recommendation] need to work together with your personal statement, they need to paint [a] picture."**

- Ellen Davis

Students interested in attending The Career/Transfer Center and Writing Center Workshops must sign up in The Career/Transfer Center and bring their current student identification card along with their most recent registration receipt.

## Writing Advice from a Professional

"Good writing has an aliveness that keeps the reader reading from one paragraph to the next, and it's not a question of gimmicks to 'personalize' the author. It's a question of using the English language in a way that will achieve the greatest clarity and strength."

"Look for the clutter in your writing and prune it ruthlessly. Be grateful for everything you can throw away . . . Simplify, simplify."

"Sell yourself, and your subject will exert its own appeal. . . Writing is an act of ego, and you might as well admit it. Use its energy to keep yourself going."

-from "On Writing Well" by Robert Zinsser

## 'Veterans' continued from page 1

to help them develop a student educational plan. It outlines the course work for each semester and helps them meet their educational goals. Each Chapter is awarded different financial assistance depending on the student's units of enrollment.

"I wouldn't be coming to school if it wasn't for this program," said Jose Palacios, a business major, and U.S. Navy veteran who is in the program and works at the VA window. "[It] gives you a lot of guidance to focus on a career objective, either getting a two-year education or higher education."

Another important branch of the veteran family is the Veteran's Club.

"We work hand in hand with Hussein to help educate and

mentor [veterans]," said Charles Brown, president of the Veteran's Club and nursing major. "We want to raise awareness on campus about the plight of the veteran, especially the student vet that's coming right from the war. We try to show students that freedom is not free, it holds the highest price."

The club is also an open forum for heated debates about politics and the war. But Brown emphasizes that they support the troops no matter who is occupying the White House.

Meetings are every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in room F110. The Veterans Service window is located in the Administration building and is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and 8 a.m.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**WALL OF ANSWERS** - The Valley College Veterans' Info Board, located in the Administration building, offers veterans a wealth of information concerning their post-military lives as students.



JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

**SAFETY UNDER THE LIGHTS** - Some Valley College students choose well lit areas to make their way around campus at night. These women are walking in the corridor in front of the school library.

## 'Security'

continued from page 1

ing that one officer per 50 students is adequate in order for students to feel safe.

Compared to other college campuses around Los Angeles, Valley has a lower level of security personnel. Capt. David Carlisle of the USC Department of Public Safety states that there are approximately 65 armed public safety officers and 100 unarmed community safety officers to protect the almost 30,000 students on their main campus, which is equal to one officer per 181 students. University of California Police Department spokesperson Nancy Greenstein stated that UCLA has the funding for 61 armed security officers for its 40,000 strong student body, equalling one officer per 655 students, and Lt. Brad Young of Pasadena City College said that the school has nine sworn officers and 85 cadets, one officer per 372 students. Valley officers are spread thinner than security personnel at the three colleges cited and trail Pasadena City College by 367 students per officer.

While there is student concern about security levels, the number of security personnel is second to unease about the lighting on college grounds.

"I prefer to walk in groups around campus; you never know who is out there," said Enrique Jauregui, 24. "There definitely needs to be better lighting around here, especially in the parking lots, and I want to see more of a security presence." Jauregui also suggested the sheriffs start a permanent patrol of the school's parking lots, especially when night classes end at 10 p.m.

Student Karen McAllister, 18, said, "At night, there aren't many people around and because it's so dark, it just makes me feel worse."

Los Angeles Valley College Deputy Sheriff Lynch states that the college station offers escorts to students, but says that they rarely request it.

"We get one or two calls per month asking one of the cadets to escort a student to their car,"

said Lynch. "If students feel unsafe, they should make use of this service."

However, not all students know about this service. "I've been going to school here for a year and a half, and I've never heard of an escort service," said Lori Wells, 31. "But at night, I would rather see more campus police around ready to help people, instead of having to call for them."

Administration staff also report feeling unsafe after dark. Jacqueline Lima, an assistant in admissions and records says that "workers leave in groups at night in case of an incident."

"And on Tuesday nights I have a class, so I sprint back to my car because it's so dark on College Road where I park," Lima said. "The lighting has been an issue for years."

Faculty member Duane Smith agrees, although he personally does not feel unsafe in the early mornings or late at night.

Last month, two brothers were sent to the hospital after being beaten and robbed in parking lot H by seven assailants.

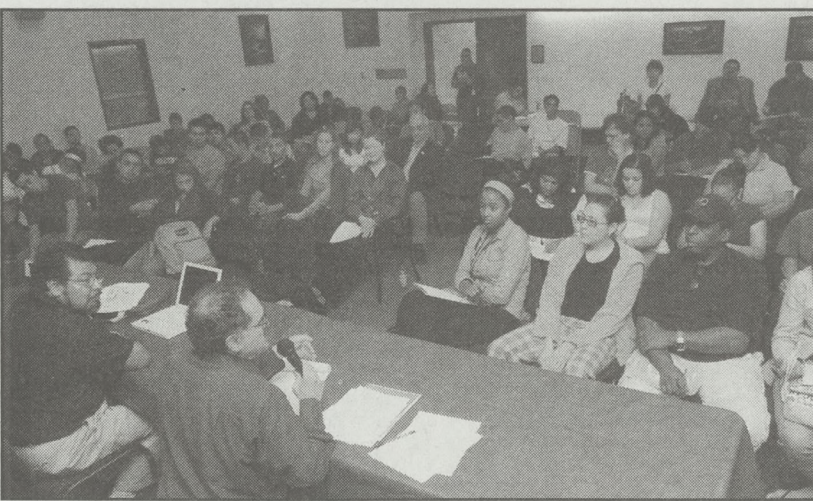
"I don't feel worried for myself at all," said Smith, whose office is by the parking lot where the incident occurred. "However, I do feel concerned for others who may be vulnerable."

Tom Lopez, director of college facilities, says that the college is working on improving the lighting.

"There has been an improvement since last year. In December, we installed 10 new lights on campus and improved the wattage on six others," he said. "Currently we are trimming tree branches around light poles so the lighting is not obstructed."

Lopez also said that the sheriff gives him daily reports on the status of the lights.

Illuminating the college will be improved further as part of Bond A/AA and as a joint venture with the MTA, with more lights to be installed in Parking lot B, Parking lot A, Monarch Square and by the Math Science building.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**INTERESTS RUN HIGH** - Valley College students and faculty members filled the Monarch Hall Fireside Room to overflowing last week when UCLA's Victor Narro, bottom right, and Gaspar Rivera-Salgado spoke about local and world-wide immigration issues. The two men are experts on the subject.

## 'Immigration' continued from page 1

I studied and became an attorney, I could help them out."

Gaspar Rivera-Salgado, project director of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, was the final panelist to address those attending, and encouraged him audience to push for reform.

"Does [the U.S.] want to be a beacon of democracy, or a fort?" he asked. "What kind of society do we want?"

Over the next two to three years, the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute, as well as Narro and

Rivera-Salgado will continue to work on immigration reform, while recognizing that congress will not move forward on these issues during the presidential elections.

"We will continue to push on smaller legislation, while still fighting for the DREAM Act," said Narro.

The Dolores Huerta Labor Institute opened in March 2007, and aims to help employees in any job who are having problems with their work environment.

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## 'Construction' continued from page 1

classroom space with chairs, potting area for labs, and teaching gardens. There are even talks about a 'living machine' that will take dirty water, break it down and transform it into clean, usable water.

This three-story structure is set to have physics, geology, and anthropology labs, a science museum, and faculty offices on the 1st floor. The 2nd floor will have labs for biology students and tutoring. The top floor will contain chemistry and nursing laboratories.

The building is scheduled to open in Spring 2008.

"We're in delicate negotiations working to try to make sure it goes up in time," said Donald Gauthier, the earth science and anthropology department chair.

PHOTO: JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

**CLIMBING THE PROGRESS LADDER** Construction work Jesse Ramirez, left, makes sure of his step while working at the new Allied Health and Science building on the southeast part of the Valley College campus.



Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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or go online at  
www.LAValleyStar.com



# OPINION

3

## One Way or Another

### The Ends Justify the Means

BY BRAD TAYLOR  
ONLINE EDITOR

Torture seems to be so en vogue these days, from the front page to movie screens it seems as if the hottest thing around is a ball-gag. And as always whenever the big "T" hits the media folks start painting their protest signs, it is about time for everyone to realize you can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs.

Ever since the events at Guantanamo Bay came to light people are keeping an eagle eye on every mention of torture in any form. And now we have new arguments on exactly what torture is. A few weeks ago the New York Times obtained memos written by the U.S. Justice Department in 2005. These papers try hard to prove that techniques such as simulated drowning, head slapping and keeping detainees in freezing temperatures do not constitute torture and thus could be used.

The Bush administra-

tion is now under heavy fire from human rights groups led by former President Jimmy Carter who seems determined to put the blame squarely on Bush himself. But while I am no fan of George W. I am even more of a fan of not dying.

Debating over what is or is not torture seems beside the point when it comes to preserving our Nations security. The term "war is hell" was not coined by General Sherman because it sounded cool; he said it because in times of war people do what is needed to win.

It isn't like Bush is Darth Vader and the war criminals are Princess Leia, these prisoners weren't on any mercy mission. Flag waving peaceniks use their own brand of torture every time they drone on and on about mistreatment of prisoners and lack of information, well maybe we would have more information if we could actually squeeze some intel out of those who want to blow up . . . everything.

It reminds me of people

who love to eat at McDonalds but go nuts when they find out how hamburger is processed. As Americans we enjoy our freedoms but many shy away from the reality of what it sometimes takes to preserve them. I also find it amusing that films like "Saw", and "Hostel" rake in big bucks glamorizing torture on the big screen and TV shows like "24" and "Lost" get big ratings on the small screen by showcasing scenes of severe torture as valid forms of entertainment while in the real world citizens are outraged by the mere thought of such harsh measures.

These are difficult times we live in and the people we have elected are making hard choices. If we have to break an arm or heaven forbid use extreme measures to get results I say go for it, better them than me. Our country's colors are red, white and blue, but if we can't stop quibbling over definitions and methods our real colors will continue to be security alert level orange, yellow and green.

### Torture Doesn't Add Up

BY JAMES BENNET  
STAFF WRITER

The principals of simple mathematics state that only 'like' things can be added or subtracted from one another. Simple illustrations of this principal are easily found in daily life; Fahrenheit cannot be added to Celsius to calculate temperature. Bananas and apples can't be added to count the amount of bananas, because that would be counting aplananas, and that doesn't make any sense at all.

Using this methodology we can determine, simplistically, that the U.S. is indisputably torturing captives. Memos from "nervous" interrogators throughout the intelligence community to the Office of Legal Counsel wonder if combining various forms of "enhanced interrogation" would constitute illegal torture; acts such as subjecting prisoners to nudity in prolonged freezing temperatures, slapping, and water boarding. Since only 'like' things can be added, mathematics dictates if the sum is torture, each element comprising the sum must be torture. Frank Rich of the Herald Tribune noted that similar procedures have been used in the past, previously known as "Verschaefte Vernehmung." Directly translated to "Enhanced Interrogation," the term was coined by the Gestapo, and referred to as the "third degree." If one is unwilling

to believe that the U.S. is partaking of torture, perhaps one can believe that the Gestapo tortured people; and hey, what's in a name?

When we examine the usefulness of torture the ludicrousness of the whole debate shines through clear as day. Anne Applebaum of the Washington Post interviewed retired Air Force Col. John Rothrock, who headed a combat interrogation unit in Vietnam. He recounted his use of non-torturous techniques and their effectiveness over full-blown torture. "If I take a Bunsen burner to the guy's genitals, he's going to tell you just about anything." The key word is anything, not "the information you are seeking." Furthermore, Army Col. Stuart Herrington, a military intelligence specialist who conducted interrogations in Vietnam, Panama and Iraq during Desert Storm attests that torture is "not a good way to get information." He asserts that the majority of detainees will divulge the desired information without the employment of "stress methods."

Not only is torture an ineffective route to garner sensitive and/or imperative information, it also bears the burden of ancillary malaise. Being seen as torturers negatively affects the nations image; and, as Herrington points out, "endangers our soldiers on the battlefield by encouraging reciprocity."

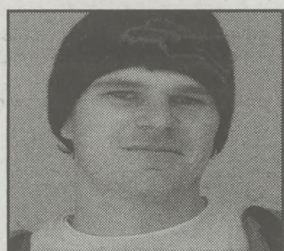
The war in Iraq is a precise

example of "ancillary malaise." The flow of "insurgents" and otherwise anti-American paramilitary groups correlates with negative international perceptions regarding Americans. Harrington maintains that America's barbarous treatment of detainees creates "gratuitous enemies" and "is counterproductive to the Coalition's efforts to win the cooperation of the Iraqi citizenry."

Most things in life can be simplified down to their basic, most primal meanings. Simple cause and effect calculations can be made to determine the usefulness, rationality, and overall coherence of any action. The issue of torture, however complicated, can be simplified. In third grade I learned the Golden Rule, which basically states "do unto other as you would have them do unto you." In the New York Times article "Secret U.S. Endorsement of Severe Interrogations" by Scott Shane, David Johnston and James Risen, John D. Huston, the Navy's top lawyer from 1997 to 2000 commented on the issue from a legal standpoint; unwittingly citing the Golden Rule as his moral compass. "... what happens when one of our people is captured and they do it to him? How do we protest then?" I think the Bush administration had it right when they said: "Torture is abhorrent."

## Campus View

PHOTOS BY VAN TRIEU



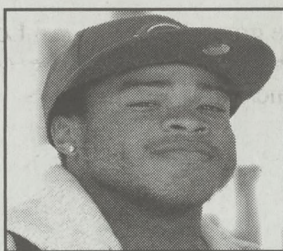
"Yes I do, because I often see the sheriffs and security guards. I don't see many hostile people or fights. Maybe people at night feel scared. It is kind of an eerie campus."

Patrick Bockman  
business



"I feel safe. I'm not up here at nighttime. I don't have any problems. I have all these people that I hang around with, so if I get into anything they're right there."

Candace Chatman  
kinesiology



"I do not feel safe on campus. There are a lot of gangs around here. They show no remorse and claim the school as their territory."

Sir Kevin Benford Jr.  
theater



"I do feel safe on campus. There are always people around. It's not like you're ever secluded. I actually chose not to take night classes because I thought it might be awkward."

Nouran Felo  
pre-med

Do you feel safe on Campus?

## A Degree in Cheatnology?

BY ASTRID SEIPELT  
STAFF WRITER

Living in the age of technology, it is tempting to rely on the gadgets surrounding us to study, rather than using the brains that we are born with. For instance, you may think that taking photos of that math test to look at later is the smart thing to do, but really, you are dumbing yourself down and risking being punished for it. It is completely against the point of receiving an education if you are not prepared to do the work required to get it. Of course, I am not against using things such as the Internet as a learning tool - I regularly use my computer to do research and help with my studies. It is when you are dishonest and potentially deny another student the grade they deserve that the line is drawn.

Almost every person you see carries their cell phone or PDA around campus, and though you may not realize, these devices present many opportunities to cheat. Whether it be using cell Internet access during a test, or texting the answers to a classmate in need, it is relatively easy to do - and relatively easy to be caught doing it. Students may be unaware of the consequences of cheating, but it can include being failed on a test, dropping a letter grade in the class, or even being dropped from the class altogether. Many professors realize that students may be tempted to cheat using modern

technology, and now ask for phones to be turned off in class, or not to be brought into lectures at all.

Last semester I took a class in which two students were caught cheating on a test. For the remainder of the semester, they were made to take all tests separately and it became obvious to the whole class that they had been caught. This proves that cheating isn't worth it, just for the embarrassment alone.

Is our generation becoming so lazy that we can't be bothered to focus on our studies, and instead place our attention on taking the easy way out? It makes me so disappointed to hear my fellow students say that they aren't going to make the effort to learn, or don't bother to go to class. Attaining a higher education can be difficult and tedious at times, but you are doing yourself a disservice if you spend the money to come to Valley and don't make the most of it.

It can be tough to get all your assignments done and complete them the honest way. Plagiarism or relying on others to give you information may look like the simple route, but doing the hard work and using your brainpower is the most satisfying. At least that way, you know you are reaping the rewards of your own work, and not of someone else.

## Central Terror Agency

BY KRISTEN BECKER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Name calling, or in the case of recent bills passed by both the U.S. Senate and Iran's Majlis, non-binding resolutions, do have an effect on the international community. The United States and Iran are currently playing a game of one-upmanship.

After the U.S. Senate passed a resolution encouraging the U.S. State Department to officially label the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, a branch of Iran's military, as a terrorist organization, Iran's parliament responded in kind by designating the CIA and the U.S. Army terrorist organizations.

According to the Associated Press, if the State Department goes along with the Senate's request, it would cut the Guard off from American finances as well as freeze the assets of its members in U.S. jurisdictions. The Department of the Treasury would also be able to take action against companies in America that do business with or have ties to the Revolutionary Guard.

Whether or not an organization perpetuates terror is based on the perspective of the one viewing the situation. In its resolution, the Majlis used the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end

of World War II as well as American military actions in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq as proof of their claims.

America uses Iran's nuclear program and allegations that the Iranian government is supplying weapons to Shiite militias in Iraq as causes to continue this fight with the Iraqi neighbor.

Both the United States and Iran are acting like children in a schoolyard fight. Rather than actually participating in talks like grown-ups, both sides resort to seeing who can give the worst insult. Neither country is willing to even try to see the other country's point of view.

Rather than determining who looks tougher in front of their friends, this war of words, if it's allowed to escalate into a physical conflict, would affect the lives of millions of innocent civilians, not to mention the lives of Iranian and American military personnel.

Perhaps getting each side to talk seems like a simplistic solution, but when lives are at risk, there are worse things than swallowing one's pride and settling this conflict peacefully.

## Bringing Fear into the Light

BY KRISTEN BECKER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After leaving class at night, Valley College students must trek across a campus that is inadequately lit, traveling to the farthest reaches of the schools parking lot, sometimes with no other people around them to provide the illusion of safety in numbers.

This nightly journey to my car is probably the most nerve-wracking experience of my day. Anything I can make out through the darkness looks suspicious and when I finally reach the safety of my vehicle, after first locking the doors, I breathe a sigh of relief that I made the harrowing trip without incident.

Valley at night is a completely different entity when compared to the beautiful, bustling campus it is during the day. Because of the lack of adequate lighting and the seemingly non-existent security personnel, the school becomes a place full of danger once the sun goes down.

Despite the assurances of Deputy Tom Lynch of Valley's Sheriff's Department that "Valley's crime rates are fairly low," many students don't think about good statistics while walking around campus at night.

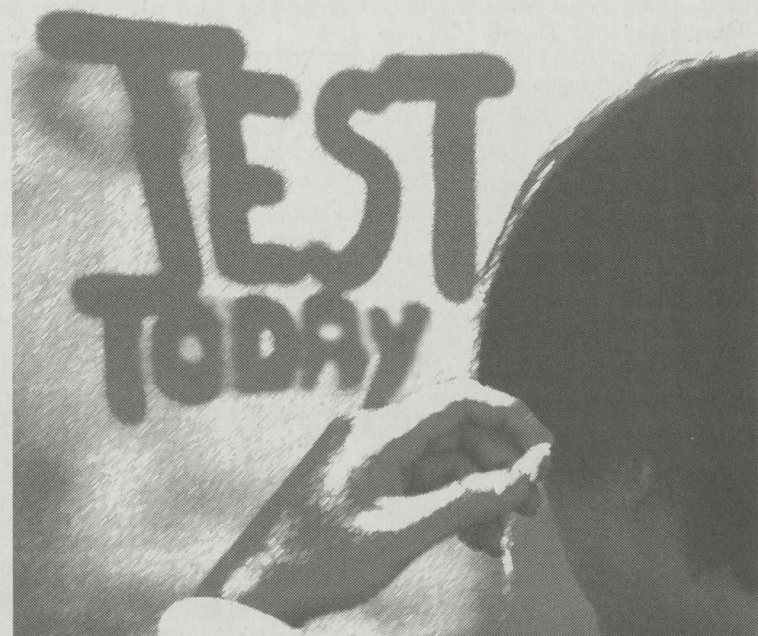
When it comes to security, numbers on paper don't mean much if students cannot move around campus without feeling the need to look over their shoulders. Safety is not simply a physical state, it is, more importantly, a state of mind.

Although violent crimes on campus may be rare, I know female students who feel they have to brandish their keys, Wolverine style, as a weapon in order to be prepared in the case of an attack.

While deputies and cadets from the Sheriff's Department do patrol campus and are available to escort students to their cars, I rarely see them when I leave class. If patrols were stepped up, allowing the sheriffs to have a visible presence on campus, many students would probably feel more secure.

Unfortunately, the Sheriff's Department does not have the manpower to do this. For a campus of more than 17,000 students, Valley employs a total of 23 security personnel. (This number is made up of two deputies, 13 security officers and eight cadets.)

Whether by increasing the lighting on campus, particularly in the parking lots and Monarch Square, or through increasing the numbers of security personnel on campus, the school administration needs to take action and give students visible reasons to feel safe while they're on campus.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



WEDNESDAY  
TO TUESDAY

Top 5 Stories Online  
@ lavalleystar.com

"Republicans Stall Dream Act in the Senate"  
by Eli Beltran

"Radiohead Offers No Ripoffs"  
By Jessica Rawstron

"Britney's Broken Life"  
By Astrid Seipelt

"Cheaper Textbooks May Be Just a Signature Away for Students"  
By Astrid Seipelt

"Queen of Halloween"  
By Brad Taylor

New CD Releases:

Eve - Here I Am

Jimmy Eat World - Chase This Light

Toby Keith - A Classic Christmas [2 CDs]

Angie Stone - The Art of Love and War

Neil Young - Chrome Dreams II

New DVD Releases:

Transformers (2007)

The Reaping

A Mighty Heart

The Hoax

The Invisible

Grindhouse: Planet Terror

New Theatre Releases:

Rendition  
Jake Gyllenhaal, Reese Witherspoon  
Alan Arkin, Meryl Streep

Things We Lost in the Fire  
Halle Berry, Benicio Del Toro

Gone Baby Gone  
Casey Affleck, Michelle Monaghan  
Ed Harris, Morgan Freeman

Reservation Road  
Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Ruffalo  
Jennifer Connelly, Mira Sorvino  
Thursday, Oct. 18

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transfer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply) or [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center

College Information Fair  
10 am- 1 pm Monarch Square

UC Admissions Workshop  
1:15- 2:30 pm FL100

CSU Admissions Workshop  
1:15- 2:30 pm FL 102

Independent College Admissions Workshop  
1:15- 2:30 pm FL 106

Financing Your Education at a Four Year College  
1:15- 2:30pm FL 110

UC Berkeley and UCLA Representatives 2:30- 4 pm

CSULA Representatives 3:30- 6 pm

Monday, Oct. 22

UC Riverside Representatives 10- 2 pm

College Application Workshop 5:30- 6:3- pm

Tuesday, Oct. 23

CSUN Representatives 10- 1 pm

CSULA Representatives 1- 4 pm

College Application Workshop 1- 2 pm

Valley Travel

# Off the Beaten Boardwalk in Venice

A half-day escape to eccentric Venice Beach is a good way to feel like you're taking a vacation without leaving the city.

By SARAH BISHOP  
OPINION EDITOR

The sky is deep gray, the clouds hover low, and it's a crisp 50 degrees. Perfect day for the beach!

Okay, not really but, I need a break and have too much school and work (let alone lack the funds) to fly to Tahiti right now. So, a simpler solution: take advantage of the wealth of adventures right here in Los Angeles.

My fix last Saturday was a jaunt out to Venice Beach. I didn't know until recently that Venice was modeled after THE Venice of romantic gondolas and columned archways. Apparently at the turn of the twentieth century, developers wanted to build a quiet community in homage to the Italian city complete with canals, boats, and piazzas. But after the car began to take over the country most of the canals were filled. Only a few of them survived and are now protected by the city. I wanted to find them.

After a 20-minute drive on the I405 South I pulled into a parking lot with a \$7 rate and made my way towards the boardwalk, deciding to



**DIRT CHEAP REAL ESTATE? ...NOT REALLY:** Getting away from the ocean-front and into the neighborhoods of Venice, California results in calming views and a look at the stunning homes of some of the fortunate residents of this popular southern California destination.

save the canals as a final treat.

Venice's boardwalk never disappoints. That wonderful place where tourists and slackers collide; the stalls selling names in Chinese or

hieroglyphics, on a grain of rice, and spelled out in wire next to musicians knitting beanies and where the pan handlers offer no excuses. Instead, they advertise their true desires as the world's

best wine-o or a willingness to work for marijuana. This place, where the flotsam of the city collects.

After chatting with an artist/poet and grabbing a swirl of vanilla and pomegranate

frozen yogurt, I stumbled onto a sliver of a bookstore called Small World Books tucked in next to a café. I found two novels for a dollar a piece, making me finally believe that Disneyland isn't

the only place in Los Angeles where magic happens.

After wandering around Venice for three hours I still had not gone to look for the canals, the inspiration for this excursion. So I set out armed with a vague sense of where they might be and found that I had parked right in front of one.

I walked down the stairs to the hedged walkway and felt that I was in a different place. Not that I had been shifted to Italy, but it's park-like calm was a dramatic contrast to the loud and lively Venice I'm familiar with. Mallards floated through the multicolored reflections of the houses lining the canals. Slim white bridges spanned the water in a faint echo of their old-world counterparts.

If you needed some peace after the boardwalk or simply want a new place to poke around in, a slow stroll by the canals is definitely a good option. I'm certainly glad to know that this quiet pocket exists so that the next time I want a mini-break with a mix of stimulation and meditation I'll know precisely where to go.

CD Review



COURTESY PHOTOBUCKET.COM

## Radiohead's Rainbows Of Change

By JONATHAN GIBBY  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

If you had any expectations for Radiohead's seventh release "In Rainbows" to sound anything like "Kid A" or "Ok Computer," you will be let down. You can search the record all you want; there are no immediate singles like "Creep," "Karma Police," or "Idiotique" on it. This isn't a concept record with beefy political overtones like "Hail to the Thief." The bottom line is if you have any preconceived notions about "In Rainbows" you're in for a nasty surprise.

The new record is the most prevalent musical change of pace since The

Beatles started hanging out with Dylan and smoking pot - culminating in the release of "Rubber Soul." In this album, Radiohead has strayed away from their optimism and dived head

...The composition is what words like "beautiful" were created for.

first into reality. In the past, they have tried to conquer issues that we as humans are powerless over.

With new songs such as "House of Cards," the band addresses a common factor in all of our lives, love.

Thom Yorke opens the song admitting - "I don't want to be your friend, I just want to be your lover." Whether they were the parting words to an old girlfriend or a longing for something that will never be, it speaks volumes universally speaking.

If you decide to give the new album a listen, open up and let Radiohead in. Their whole career has been a crescendo to this point. Radioheads musical toolbox is full and accurately displayed in this arrangement of songs. Stick some headphones on your ears to get the full stereo-effect because the composition is what words like beautiful were created for.

Book Review

## Spreading the Gospel of Colbert

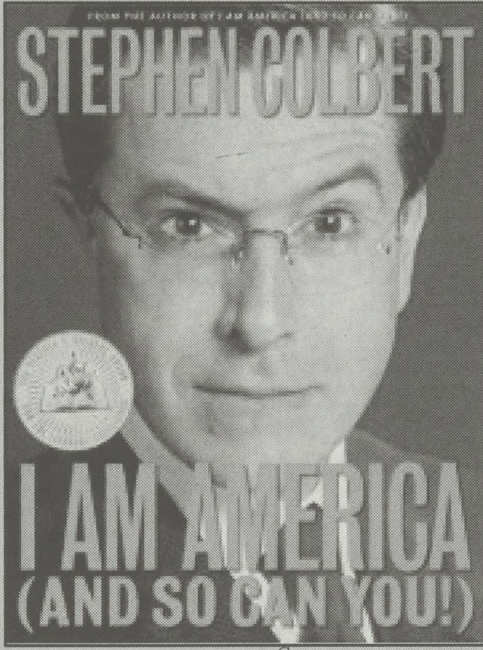
By KRISTEN BECKER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Stephen Colbert's new book, "I am America (and So Can You!)" spreads the gospel of Stephen across this great country to those who have not yet experienced "truthiness" as only Colbert can tell (and write) it.

Colbert is currently the host of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report." Before getting his own show, he perfected his pompous, yet uninformed newsman during his time on "The Daily Show" with Craig Kilborn and Jon Stewart

The book begins with Colbert's declaration, "I am no fan of books," yet he easily fills 227 pages with everything his readers will ever need to know in order to agree with him on topics ranging from religion to sex and dating and everything in between.

Colbert even outs reality's liberal bias. He explains his aversion to reality-based scientific research, "Science attacks our most cherished opinions. Opinions which come straight from our collective gut." Of course, because the gut, according



COURTESY AMAZON.COM

ridiculous assertions that makes this book and, by association, "The Colbert Report" so much fun. Colbert and his team of writers have turned satire into a fine art.

Although he imitates the bluster and self-importance of Fox News' star "Papa Bear" (as Colbert affectionately calls him) Bill O'Reilly by having a photo of Colbert appearing at the start of

every chapter. Having a book full of his thoughts is not enough, he must also put his opinions in the margins. As over the top it may seem the book doesn't become tiresome. Colbert and his writers are able to present biting social commentary with humor while still making their audience think. While they want to comment on current issues, it is obvious that they want, most importantly, to make the audience laugh.

While the book is often laugh out loud funny, something is missing. On the show, the viewer can see that look in Colbert's eye, reminding us that he is in on the joke, too. What's also missing is that the book doesn't have any signature "Colbert Report" breaks in character adding more levity to his deadpan delivery.

That being said, this book is as worthy a companion to Jon Stewart's "America, the Book" as "The Colbert Report" is to "The Daily Show."

## "Car Crash TV": Television So Bad That It's Good

By ASTRID SEIPELT  
STAFF WRITER

We all have a secret when it comes to our television viewing habits. You know - those shows that you love, but you would never admit to watching. I like to call it "Car Crash TV" we all know that we shouldn't look, but we just can't tear our eyes away. Here are my top five shows that I hate to love to watch.

5. America's Next Top Model (The CW) - Cycle 9 of this Tyra Banks creation features 13 would-

be models strutting their stuff in hopes of being named number one. While this isn't the trashiest show out there, it serves for excellent celebrity blog fodder and has us dissecting every challenge and catty exchange. Tyra and Co. makes me intensely glad that I never have to face the test of mincing down a catwalk in 7-inch heels. Fierce.

4. I Love New York 2 (VH1) - Now heading into its second season, New York, a.k.a Tiffany Pollard along with her mom, are searching for the right man after

being disappointed three times over. Rating high on the trash-o-meter with ridiculous challenges and outrageous characters, one can't help but cheer for "New York" while she sorts out the players from the potential loves.

3. The Hills (MTV) - Ah, how I love the smell of scripted drama on a Monday night. This 'Laguna Beach' spin off has me glued to the tele. It follows the lives and loves of four Los Angeles girls, but it just keeps me wondering how they manage to be famous for, well, nothing. None-the-less, it doesn't

stop me from setting my TiVo so I can catch the latest make-ups and breakups.

2. Sunset Tan (E!) - This show has simultaneously put me off tanning for life, and caused me to intensely dislike two girls I will probably never meet. For the uninitiated, those two girls are Holly and Molly, who somehow get away with ruining the business every week. Alas, I just can't stop watching the weekly drama and hi-jinks of the 'Sunset Tan' crew, mainly because it makes me thankful that I have more than five brain cells

bouncing around my pale, non-blonde head.

1. My Super Sweet 16 (MTV) - Why do I watch a show that glorifies being spoiled and ungrateful? For one, it always seems to be playing when I channel surf, and two, it really is like a car accident - I can't stop watching umgrateful children throw tantrums when they don't get the \$80,000 luxury car they requested. More people should watch this show, just to learn to appreciate what they did get when they reached that magical age.



## SPORTS

5

## LAVC EVENTS

**Football Homecoming  
Tailgate Party**

## WHEN:

**Saturday, October 20  
5:30p.m. - 7p.m.**

## LOCATION:

**Outside of  
Monarch Stadium**

## PROMO:

**First 100 people to  
come will receive FREE  
tickets**

## FREE:

**Hot Dogs  
Chips  
Drinks  
Cotton Candy**

## ACTIVITIES:

**Face Painting  
Trivia / Sport Games**

## QUOTES

**Head Coach Jimmy Sims  
on the team's effort:  
"Our kids fought hard.  
We put in, basically, a  
new offense in three  
weeks. And we've got  
some big boys on the line  
and we've been running  
the ball and did a good  
job today."**

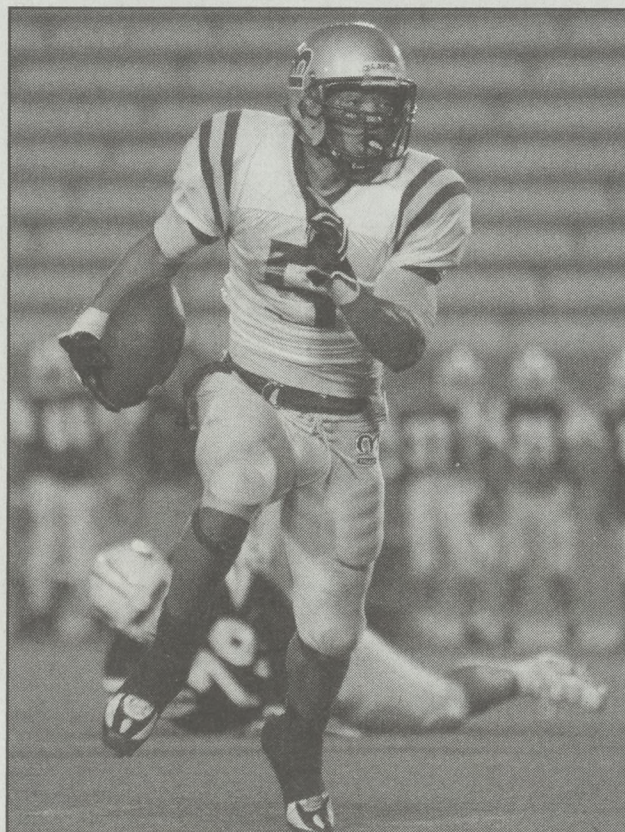
**"We had some misreads  
in some part of the  
game... It's up and down,  
up and down."**

## WSC FOOTBALL

## Marauders Double-Up Monarchs

BY ERIC L. PATTEN  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

MONTEREY PARK: On a night when the scoreboard at times mimicked a basketball game, it was strangely fitting that a defensive play stretched Valley College's football team's road winning streak to two games.



ROOM TO RUN - Valley College running back Anthony Dickson leaves East Los Angeles College defenders in his wake with this third quarter run. Dickson gained 128 yards and scored two touchdowns in the 30-28 Monarchs win on the road last Saturday.

After five weeks averaging a meager 13.8 points per game, the Monarchs offense looked like "The Greatest Show On Turf" in Saturday's 30-28 win over the East Los Angeles Huskies. Still, it took a Victor Cooper interception in the waning seconds to finally seal the victory, the Monarch's second in three games.

"We gave up a few touchdowns, so it was only right to owe it back at the end," said Cooper, a second-year safety from Palmdale.

With only eight seconds to go Huskies quarterback Jerryl Brown overthrew his tight end and the ball landed squarely in Cooper's breadbasket.

Even with the defense making the game's final play, it was the Monarchs' offense that thrived.

Three weeks after implementing a more conservative, run-oriented attack, head coach Jimmy Sims' strategy may have paid off.

"We've got some big boys on the line and we've been running the ball and did a good job today," Sims said.

Halfbacks Anthony Dickson, Ryan Kidd and James Walker all contributed to Valley's 208-yard rushing performance. Despite being held in check through much of the first half, Dickson earned 131 yards and two touchdowns on 34 carries, including a dazzling 13-yard cutback on a toss play midway through the third quarter.

Walker, who credited the offensive line for paving the way, scored Valley's first points of the night on an 8-yard scamper.

"On offense, anytime we score it's exciting, of course," Walker said, describing what it feels like to get headed in the right direction. "But to get 30 [points], shows how much we've improved."

The Monarchs also proved they are capable of winning with quarterbacks Justin Grantin and Troy Jackson both operating under center. In Valley's first victory of the year, September 22 against Compton College, Grantin seized a majority of the playing time with his second half leadership. However, Sims continued alternating the sophomore signal-callers from quarter-to-quarter against East LA.

"It has nothing to do with Grantin," Sims said when asked why he went back to Jackson after Grantin led two third quarter touchdown drives. "It's what we practiced and we stay with what we practice."

Trailing 12-6 at halftime, the Monarchs came out of the locker room with Grantin and immediately set the tone.

After Dickson's first touchdown, a 1-yard dive at the goal line, Paul Landon converted a 41-yard field goal and Grantin hit Victor Hines on a 16-yard slant for six.

Still, with a 23-12 lead, the Monarchs struggled to put the Huskies away. On third and goal at the five, Valley's defense was called for unsportsmanlike conduct, giving East LA a new set of downs. Three plays later Jerome Morris dashed around the edge and cut into the lead.

In a wacky play on the ensuing kickoff, the Huskies' Ricky Toland drove a line drive kick straight at the front line of Valley's return team. The ball ricocheted back to a Huskies coverman and a swell of emotion swept through the crowd.

One play later, Brown heaved a 59-yard touchdown to Delani Woods and the Huskies had regained the lead, 28-23.

With the East LA band playing a fight-song all too familiar to USC fans and the Jumbotron replaying Woods' touchdown grab, the Monarchs offense stepped onto the field and calmly marched 71 yards.

"The key thing is we had a big slant play on that drive," Sims said of a third-and-five conversion early in the possession. "And Troy is a little bit taller and he threw the slant in there for a big time first down."

The drive was capped by Dickson's 5-yard touchdown run and Landon's PAT, giving Valley a two-point lead and putting the game back into their vaunted defense's hands.

Given two more chances, they would not budge, collecting a fumble and later killing the Huskies final effort on Cooper's interception.

"Maybe next time we can give up less yards on defense," said safety Josh Streid, who finished with 6.5 tackles. "But we got a 'w' so that's all that matters."

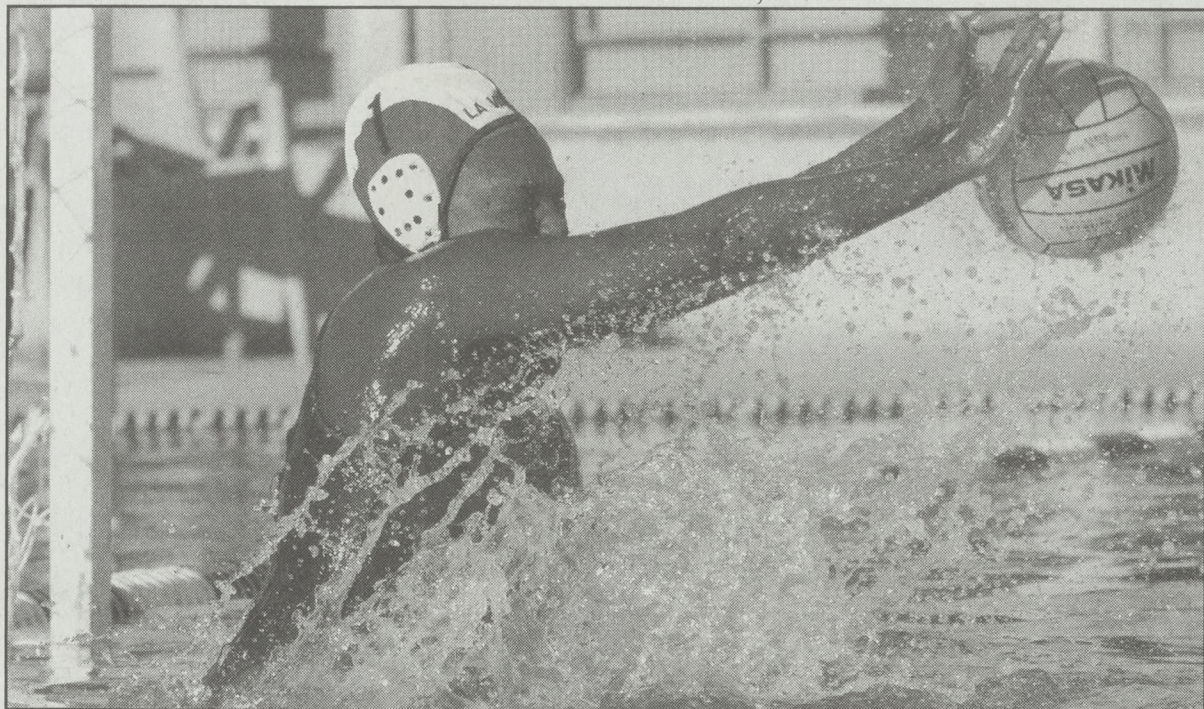
## Corsairs Sink Monarchs in SMC

BY JAMES BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

SANTA MONICA—Last Wednesday the Santa Monica College Corsairs introduced the Monarchs to the blimey deep after a thrilling double overtime cross-town water polo grudge match. "Last game we got one of their girl's eyes," Elin Haghnazarian gloated. "They're out to get us." The Corsairs used their powder kegs, peg legs, and blunderbuss's to thwart the Monarchs 5 - 4 in open waters amidst a flurry of scimitars and cannon balls.

"1 2 3 VALL-EY CAN I GET A WHAT WHAT?!" The Corsairs plunged into the game with sails wide open, promptly keelhauling the Monarch defense and putting themselves on the scoreboard within moments of the opening whistle. The Monarchs returned fire twice in a row, alas the calibration on their cannons must have been off as Emily Waizenegger and Patty Lerma both nailed the goalpost in consecutive heartbreakers. As the quarter wound down, Haghnazarian elegantly placed the ball in the top-right corner of the goal to tie the game.

Enraged by Patty Lerma's second-quarter goal, the Corsairs were hell bent on sending the Monarchs to Davy Jones' locker in the second half. The Corsairs were constantly on offense, but goalie Lachee Singleton is a force to be reckoned with; single-handedly stopping five consecutive shots on goal. Valley exacted its maritime revenge with a well-executed play; Patty Mo assaulted the goal to the port, passed the ball to Lerma who flanked starboard for an easy goal against an out-witted goalie.



STOPPING A ROCKET- Valley College women's water polo goalie Lachee Singleton stops a hard shot during the Monarchs' 5-4 double-overtime loss at Santa Monica College last week. Thanks to her overall play, Singleton was named water polo player of the week by the team.

SMC dove into the fourth quarter driven by a tsunami of rage, rocketing the ball past Valley defenders from way outside to tie it up. Mo compensated by lobbing the ball over three defenders and putting the Monarchs up by one. "We got this ladies" an unknown voice shouted from the pool. Unfortunately, they didn't have it. SMC snagged the ball with 15 seconds left in regulation and slipped it past the Valley defenders to tie the

**"Last game, we got one of their  
girl's eyes. They're out to  
get us."**

**- Elin Haghnazarian**

game; and in water polo, there are no ties.

The soggy sirens tried some tricky plays in overtime, Lerma attempted a behind-the-back shot to no avail, and fast passing and shooting was in abundance; but no points were to be had. The Corsairs used their exceptional speed to glide across the pool and roll the ball past the undefended Valley goalposts to put them up by one.

The second overtime passed without Valley being able to get on offense for any substantial period of time; tragically the final whistle pierced the chlorinated waters of the SMC pool at 5 - 4, SMC. "They were playing grabby-touchy feely. Despite that, we played awesome. We played our hearts out! I was fighting with everything I had." Mo commented, smelling of roses and other lovely things after showering. "It's a team we are, not individuals; a team."

## Sisters Keep Running in the Family

BY OSCAR CHICAS  
STAFF WRITER

In today's world when you think of the student athlete you tend to focus more on the athlete rather than the student. However, here at Valley College we have two sisters who are shifting the emphasis of that statement.

The Lopez sisters at a mere glance seem to be twins, but that may be due to the fact that they both measure 5-feet 2-inches. Although the girls might not be tall, they are enjoying success on the Valley women's cross country team. In the first four meets of the season the coach Yannick Allain has named either Elva or Erika athlete of the week.

"We hear it all the time, 'don't you have a twin sister,'" said Elva Lopez, the elder sister. "I swear you have a twin, cause I saw a girl that looked like you earlier, it's actually pretty funny."

Elva Viridiana Lopez, 19, and Erika Lopez, 18, were born in Jalisco, Mexico and migrated to the United States in 2001.

"We were 13 and 12, I remember it was in 2001 because we came here one or two months before the attacks on the twin towers took place," Erika said.

As many people who come to the United States in search of the American Dream, these two are working hard toward their goals.

Elva is an engineering major while Erika is a biology major, they plan on

transferring to UCLA when they finish at Valley. Elva plans to use that degree to teach engineering, while sister Erika plans to become a surgeon.

Currently they both are juggling four classes, cross country, folkloric dancing, and Erika is a Valley cheerleader. The Lopez sisters spend an average time of 45 hours a week at school, and the rest of the time is either spent studying, practicing, eating or sleeping.

"We've always done things together, ever since we were little," Erika said. "The only times we are apart from each other is when we were out with our boy friends."

Erika said, "We help each other, were not the jealous type. When I haven't been running all that well, she'll tell me to fix my form or during a race encourage me to run faster."

The sisters began competing in cross country while they attended Canoga Park High School. Elva began in eleventh grade while Erika began in tenth. After Elva graduated from Canoga she choose to attend Valley for two reasons. One, it was relatively close to home and the second they had a cross country team.

"When I first came to Valley I was the only one on the women's cross country team, I had to train with the boys that first year, and I was all alone



SISTERLY SUPPORT - Valley College women's cross country team members, Elva, 19, and Erika, 18, Lopez, have been long distance runners since their Canoga Park High School days.

at the competitions. This year though my sister is on the team and we have a real squad," said Elva Lopez.

What are the Lopez sisters' future plans? They wish to travel far and wide, from France to Egypt, and even to the moon.

"I've always wanted to visit the moon, my dream is to become an astronaut," said Elva Lopez.

"If that happens," Erika said laughing, "I guess we'll finally be separated and I'll be stuck here."

## Owls Shut Down Monarchs

BY KIM DURAN  
STAFF WRITER

It was another disappointing game for the Valley College Monarchs as they failed to score in a 6-0 loss to Citrus College last Friday bringing their record to 2-10-1, 0-9, 0-6.

The Monarchs played with a lot of intensity and held their own against the women of Citrus. Both teams had numerous attempts to score a goal in the first half moving from one goalpost to the other. The players were evenly matched and defended each other well. Valley goal keeper Jocelyn Mercado returned for her first game since injuring her fibula and had five saves before Citrus snuck in a goal

23 minutes into the game. That would bring the score going into halftime to 1-0 Citrus.

Within the first 5 minutes of the second half, Citrus scored two more goals. A slew of penalties occurred shortly thereafter. Players from both teams were shoving each other while one girl was forced to sit down for a couple of minutes after she kicked an opposing player while she was on the ground. The Monarchs Captain, Maria Guardado, settled her team down and had a few good attempts to score. In the end it wasn't enough as Citrus would score three more goals within the last 20 minutes of the game. Goalie Jocelyn Mercado tried her hardest to block the goals and would finish the game with 15 saves. Unfortunately

the damage was done and the Monarchs lost 6-0.

"I'm not feeling 100 percent, I did all I could," said Mercado when asked how she felt she played. "I am the last resort and I should have saved those goals." While Jocelyn feels responsible her teammates feel differently. "It's not her fault," said Maria Guardado, "players weren't marked [and they scored]". Christina Ross, Manager of the Monarchs, added, "Jocelyn is a good keeper, she works hard and she is playing [while still] injured."

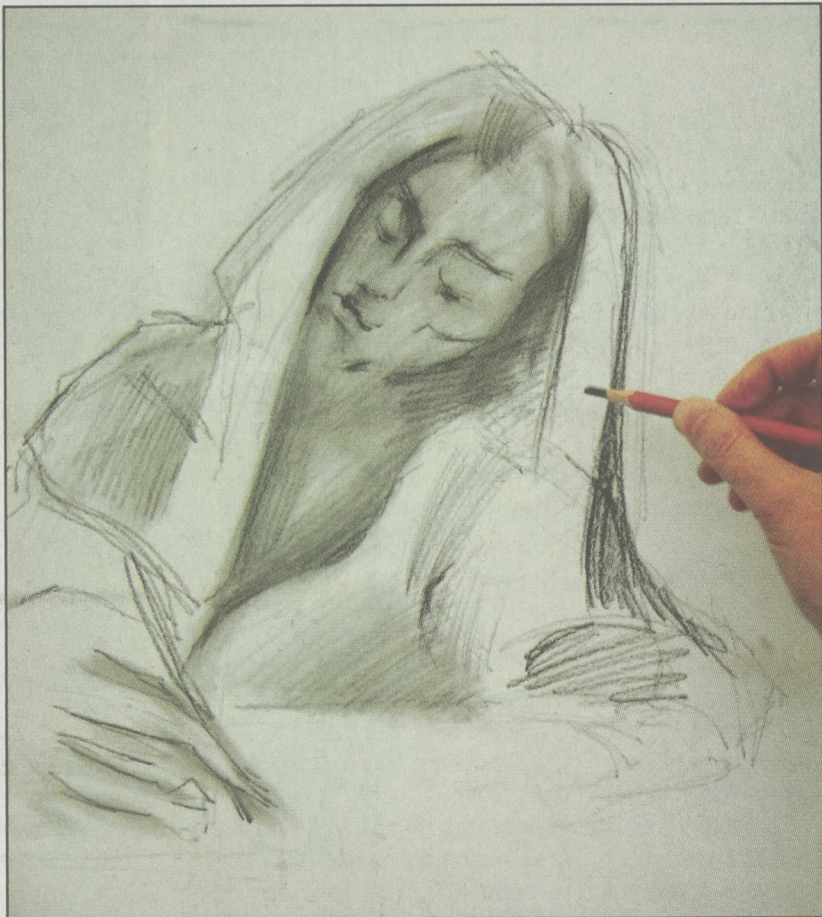
The Monarchs are optimistic and hope they can rectify their mistakes in time for their next game on Friday Oct. 19 here at Monarch Stadium at 4 p.m.



# GALLERY



PRACTICE AND MORE PRACTICE- Niel Galanter is rehearsing one of the movements he will be performing.



ART 201 - This is an expresionist drawing that Naiza Hzachyan is carefully working on.



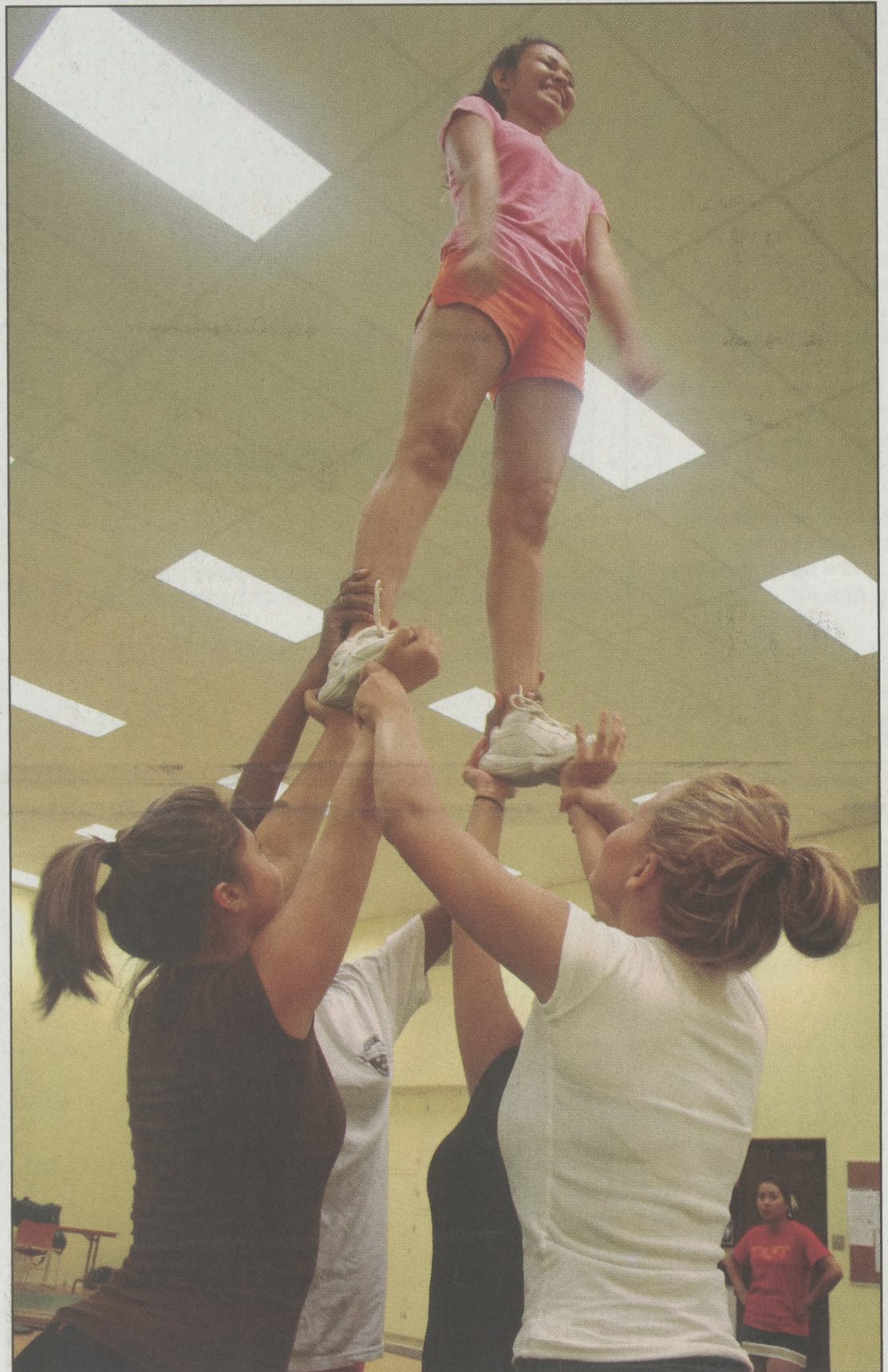
SING YOUR HEART OUT- Alec Leon playing Rooster and Nina Donato playing Miss Hanigan go over one of the songs from the musical "ANNIE."

## EXPRESS YOURSELF

all content by **Juan Robles**

There are many classes and programs at Valley College to help liberate the feelings inside you. Find the one for you and pour your heart and soul into it.

There's plenty to choose from: drawing, media arts, music, acting, or even cheering for the team. Try to make a difference at least within yourself, show the world a new perspective on life and inspire others to do the same.



GO MONARCHS LETS GO!- Anna Carlos on top calls out a cheer while her team mates hold her carefully.



SAY CHEESE- "Photography helps me see a different prespective of everything that's around me." say Gabriela Castillo a photo10 student.